Area charts

Like a line or column chart, an area chart shows values as points on the Y axis and categories on the X axis. The Y values of each data series are connected by lines and the areas below the lines are colored.

Area charts emphasize volumes of change from one category to the next. They have greater visual impact than line charts, but the data used will make a difference.

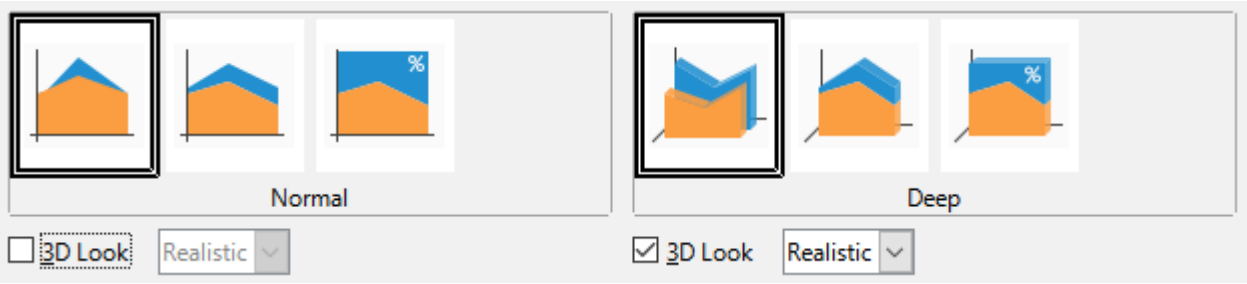

Figure 134: Chart Type dialog - 2D and 3D Area

Area chart variants, shown in Figure 134 are:

Normal
When **3D Look** is deselected, plots all data as absolute Y values. It first plots the area of the last data series in the data range, then the next to last, and so on. Finally the first data series is drawn over the other data. Thus, higher values in the first data series will hide lower values of later data series.

Deep
When **3D Look** is selected, this variant shows the first data series in front, with subsequent data series behind.

Stacked
Stacks cumulative values on top of each other. This ensures that all values are visible, and no data set is hidden by others. However, the Y values no longer represent absolute values, except for the first data series, which is shown at the bottom of the stacked areas.

Percent Stacked
Stacks cumulative values on each other and also scales the values as percentages of the category total.

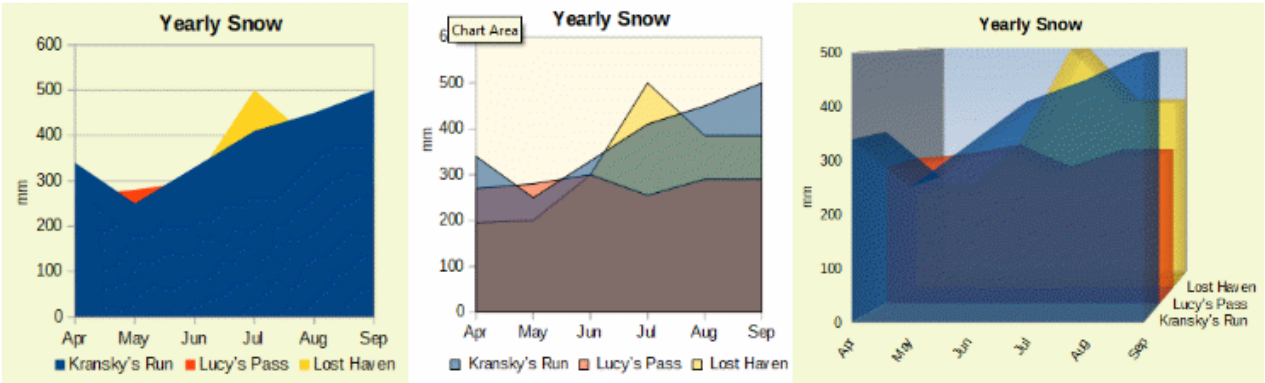

Figure 135: Area chart examples

Normal area charts

Area charts are sometimes tricky to create. Using transparency values may be helpful. To create the charts in Figure 135, first set up the basic chart using the Chart Wizard. The chart on the left shows the result. Because of the data overlap, some of it is missing behind the first data series. This is probably not desirable. The other examples are better solutions.